

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims as presented herein in view of the preceding amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 21-23 are currently pending in this application. By this Amendment, Claims 24-26 have added. Support for new Claims 24-26 can be found throughout the specification. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-7 and 21-23 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over Pannell et al. PCT Application No. WO95/25131 ("Pannell") alone or in view of Degnan et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,573,657 ("Degnan"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Nowhere does Pannell disclose or suggest a process for the hydrogenation and/or dehalogenation of polyalphaolefin to provide a substantially hydrogenated and/or substantially dehalogenated polyalphaolefin homo- or copolymer comprising, *inter alia*, "... a catalytically effective amount of a substantially amorphous hydrogenation/dehalogenation catalyst comprising a metal component on an inorganic material based support wherein the metal component is present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst" as generally recited in Claim 1. Nor is there any disclosure or suggestion in Pannell of a process comprising, *inter alia*, "... a catalytically effective amount of a substantially amorphous hydrogenation/dehalogenation catalyst ... wherein the metal component of the catalyst is one or more Group VIII metals of the Periodic Table selected from the group consisting of Fe, Co, Ni, Ru, Rh, Pd, Os, Ir, Pt, and salts thereof wherein the metal component is present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst" as generally recited in Claim 5. Nor, for that matter, is there any disclosure or suggestion in Pannell of a process comprising, *inter alia*, "... a catalytically effective amount of a substantially amorphous hydrogenation/dehalogenation catalyst ... wherein the amorphous

hydrogenation/dehalogenation catalyst is palladium on a silica-alumina support and wherein the the metal component is present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst” as generally recited in Claim 7.

Rather, Pannell discloses a process for hydrogenating, decolorizing and/or dehalogenating a halogen containing unsaturated hydrocarbon feedstock and/or polymeric resins employing a supported metal catalyst. Pannell further discloses that the supported metal catalyst is obtained from a metal compound, e.g., a Group 8 metal, and a promoter, wherein the metal compound is present in an amount of about 10% to about 65% by weight and preferably about 35% to about 60% by weight, based upon the total weight of the catalyst. However, at no point in Pannell is there any suggestion, motivation or even a hint of employing a supported metal catalyst wherein the metal component is present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst. In lacking any disclosure or suggestion of the presently recited amorphous hydrogenation/dehalogenation catalyst comprising a metal component on an inorganic material based support, wherein the metal component is present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst, for use in the claimed process, Claims 1-7 and 21-23 are believed to be nonobvious, and therefore patentable, over Pannell considered alone.

With respect to new Claims 24-26, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Pannell of a process comprising, *inter alia*, “... a catalytically effective amount of a substantially amorphous hydrogenation/dehalogenation catalyst comprising one or more Group VIII metals of the Periodic Table on an inorganic material based support and wherein the one or more Group VIII metals are present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst” as generally recited in new Claim 24.

Rather, as discussed hereinabove, Pannell discloses a process for hydrogenating, decolorizing and/or dehalogenating a halogen containing unsaturated hydrocarbon feedstock and/or polymeric resins employing a supported metal catalyst obtained from a metal compound, e.g., a Group 8 metal, and a promoter, wherein the metal compound is present in an amount of about 10% to about 65% by weight and preferably about 35% to about 60% by weight, based upon the total weight of the catalyst. However, Pannell provides no suggestion, motivation or even a hint of employing a supported metal catalyst wherein the one or more Group VIII metals are present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst. Accordingly, new Claims 24-26 are believed to be nonobvious, and therefore patentable, over Pannell considered alone.

Degnan does not cure and is not cited as curing the deficiencies of Pannell. In particular, nowhere does Degnan disclose or suggest a process for the hydrogenation and/or dehalogenation of polyalphaolefin to provide a substantially hydrogenated and/or substantially dehalogenated polyalphaolefin homo- or copolymer comprising, *inter alia*, "... a catalytically effective amount of a substantially amorphous hydrogenation/dehalogenation catalyst comprising a metal component on an inorganic material based support wherein the metal component is present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst" as generally recited in Claim 1. Nor does Degnan disclose or suggest a process comprising, *inter alia*, "... a catalytically effective amount of a substantially amorphous hydrogenation/dehalogenation catalyst comprising one or more Group VIII metals of the Periodic Table on an inorganic material based support and wherein the one or more Group VIII metals are present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst" as generally recited in new Claim 24.

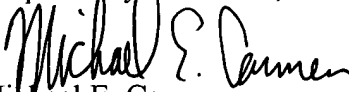
Rather, Degnan generally discloses that hydrogenation is a well-established process both in the chemical and petroleum refining industries and is conventionally carried out in the presence of a catalyst which usually comprises a metal hydrogenation component, e.g., nickel or noble metals such as platinum, palladium, rhodium and iridium, on a porous support material. However, there is no disclosure, suggestion or even a hint in Degnan that the metal component of the catalyst is present in an amount of about 0.01 to about 5 weight percent, based on the total weight of the catalyst. Instead, Degnan is completely silent as to any amount that the metal component is present on the amorphous support. Thus, even by combining Pannell with Degnan, one skilled in the art would not arrive at the presently claimed invention.

Since Pannell, alone or in combination with Degnan, do not disclose or suggest the presently claimed process for the hydrogenation and/or dehalogenation of polyalphaolefin to provide a substantially hydrogenated and/or substantially dehalogenated polyalphaolefin homo- or copolymer, Claims 1-7 and 21-23 and new Claims 24-26 are believed to be nonobvious, and therefore patentable, over Pannell and Degnan. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Claims 1-7 and 21-23 and new Claims 24-26 as presented herein are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. Such early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,


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